



**Montlake Community Center
Project Advisory Team
July 7, 2005
Meeting Notes**

PAT members present: Kristin Tollefson; Joanna Richey; Billie Condon; Ted Choi

Staff Present: Dan Johnson, Parks Project Manager; Karen Lynch, Parks Public Relations Specialist; Lori Chisholm, Parks Manager; Joan Peterson, Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs; Charles Humphrie, Montlake CC coordinator; Dena Schuler, Montlake CC assistant coordinator.

Introductions

Dan Johnson, Project Manager, introduced Lori Chisholm and Charles Humphrie. He gave the floor to Kristin for her presentation.

Project Art Concepts - Kristin Tollefson

Kristin Tollefson, Project Artist, presented her final entry art design to the group for comments. She began by reviewing her process to date: how she gathered ideas and talked with community members about their desires for the entry art.

Kristin's public and community involvement over the course of this process:

- Kristin met informally with a group of neighbors in the summer of 2004 to talk about qualities about the neighborhood and community center that are unique to Montlake. Neighbors also talked about qualities or themes they would like to see in the artwork.
- She spent time at the Community Center in 2004 and 2005 observing the setting and how people interact with and around the center.
- Kristin obtained and read a book about the history of the Montlake community.
- She met with the PAT in August 2004, and presented slides of her previous artwork and talked with the group about what they saw as the special qualities of the neighborhood and Community Center.
- Kristin participated in a Montlake CC open house with a display of her previous artwork and initial artwork ideas.
- She also gave a public talk at Montlake CC about her previous artwork fellowship in Iceland.
- Kristin presented her initial artwork concepts to the public at the community meeting on February 1, 2005 and received comments about qualities/themes the community would be interested in seeing in her artwork.
- Kristin presented a range of design concepts to the PAT on March 23, 2005 and received comments and feedback on the concepts.
- Presentation of her final design concept to the PAT at this meeting on July 7, 2005.

Kristin briefly reviewed the three earlier conceptual ideas that the PAT commented on in March 2005 -- leaf, hull, pod shape.

The final design leans most toward the hull shape (concept); she showed a model of two linked sculptures. One part of the sculpture is several leaning poles and the second part of the sculpture has as its focus a metal hull shape, like a boat or a pod, incorporated with the poles.

The intent is to use several wood pilings that were dredged up from Lake Union that had been underwater for 78 years. The poles will be cleaned and finished with a product called "X-100", both a wood preservative and a coloring agent. Any color used will be subtle. The poles are about 10 – 16" in diameter; Kristin will choose several with a similar diameter. Since the poles are all very long, they can be easily cut to the length needed.

Kristin mentioned that some of these poles have already been used at Carkeek Environmental Learning Center, and they have a very nice patina. PAT members who would like to see an example of the poles should visit Carkeek ELC. The poles used in the sculpture will be secured so that kids will be dissuaded from climbing them, and also at a steep enough angle (leaning) that they'd be difficult to climb.

Another feature of these poles is that since they are all second growth wood, they have "close together" growth rings.

The poles will have several "glittering disks" placed here and there – the metal will be reclaimed siding from the Butler building on the site.

(A PAT member asked if the siding is really a glittering metal, and Kristin assured that it is a metal on the inside. The butler building is slated to be demolished when construction starts.)

The leaning sculpture will have a metal hull incorporated, which will be made from a heavier, stronger metal, potentially stainless steel -- *not* from the reclaimed siding. The hull will be sturdy enough not to be damaged if kids climb on it. The hull shape will be oriented so that it "points" (in theory) toward the water but also directs people toward the CC's entrance. People will be able to walk in and among the logs of the sculpture, and sit under them.

Kristin has often used reclaimed and found materials in her work; what the Parks Dept. calls "adaptive reuse of materials".

PAT member in attendance enthusiastically approved of the design.

Bille Condon mentioned a grant that's been received the Advisory Council, to help clean up the nearby waterfront and shoreline – maybe the entry art can somehow be an element in that.

Ted Choi asked if these final designs (drawings) and/or the model can be posted on the webpage immediately, and placed in the CC for the public to view.

Joan Peterson advised him that the Arts & Culture staff would like to wait until after July 19 to post a final design online. There is a Public Art Committee meeting on the 19th, and soon after that date, we'll know whether there were any requested adjustments to the design. At that point, it would be most cost efficient to create a computerized

version of the drawings or model – vs. doing it immediately, and possibly doing it a second time to reflect potential requested changes.

Ted said that he felt the whole Montlake community should be able to give input on this entry art design. The group reviewed the number of PAT and community-invited meetings where the art was discussed, and feel that at this point it would be helpful to display the expanded building floor plan for CC users to see.

The floor plan is currently on display in the center. Later in July, every effort will be made to also display a copy of the design (illustration) of the entry art design as an informational aid to the community who use the CC. Lobby space in the existing building is extremely limited but we can reduce the size of the displays to make it fit.

Review of Building Design: Dan

Dan reviewed the most current set of expansion project floor plans, and a 3-D rendering of how the center will look when finished. He also showed a site plan.

The project is now in the Construction Documents phase. In August, architect Don Carlson will present a 65% construction package for internal review and written comments from Parks and other city staff.

In October, a 95% construction package will be presented; it goes to Public Works Contracting for review. Then the project goes out to bid in, or by, December.

When the construction portion of the Pro Parks Levy Funding becomes available in January '06, Dan will be ready to proceed.

Dan reviewed the building's spaces (*please refer to the current floor plan on this webpage*) and talked briefly about fire safety in the new building – fire safety planning will meet or exceed all requirements.

Modular building:

Dan stated that the plan is to relocate and sell the modular to another Community Center. The Advisory Council is informally in favor of this plan and still discussing it.

Proceeds of the sale go to the Advisory Council fund, and will be directed by that group. Possible use of the funds may be improvements to the interior of the Tudor, within the limits of the Landmarks Board criteria.

Lori mentioned that at least two CC's have expressed an interest in the modular.

Programming relocation and CC closure: Dan, Lori and Charles

Lori, Charles and Dena are currently looking at private spaces, nearby Community Centers and area schools to use for relocated programs.

Childcare will remain at the McGilvra school location. One program, martial arts (evening) has already been relocated to the school.

A final plan should be in place in September. The center has to be cleared out for closure, to allow construction to begin early next year.

The CC's Fall brochure will include new program location information; it will also be posted on the center's web page, and the project webpage. A press release will be sent out in the Fall as well.

Lori and Charles stated that there will be less of a need for people to come to the CC to register for programs, as Parks has been encouraging people to register online. The goal is to retain the "customer base" for programs until the CC reopens in Fall, 2006.

Trees and landscape assessment:

Dan handed out a copy a report dated 6/15/05, assessing the trees onsite. Involved in the assessment were Dan Carlson (architect); Dan; Mark Mead (Parks Sr. Arborist); Pam Alspaugh, Parks landscape architect; Karen Keist, project landscape consultant (and former member of the Landmarks Board); Peggy Pullen, area crew chief, and Lisa Chen, horticulturist.

Since the Tudor building has been declared a Landmark, the plantings around it (which have now overgrown their original intended size) are also considered part of the designated historic site. Karen Keist made a recommendation of specific changes that she would like to see made around the Tudor building related to its landscaping.

On the site near the Community Center, the ultimate result based on the assessment is that two trees would have to be removed – with three new trees planted.

Also it was discovered that the Parks Department Horticulture budget contains funding for improvements and work, allocated to the Montlake CC site. It has been decided to save this money until after construction is complete, and potentially use the money to pay special attention to the plantings around the Tudor and courtyard. These funds are generally intended for plants, irrigation, and shrubs.

8:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned